

## Taylor University Pillars at Taylor University

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TUFW Alumni Publications

Publications for TUFW and Predecessors

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Winter 2013

# The Fort Wayne Vine

Fort Wayne Alumni Center Heritage Association

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Fort Wayne  
loves our  
teachers!



When I went to elementary school, I attended South Wayne, located just nine blocks from the Fort Wayne campus. Did you student teach, observe or attend this school? I know **Amy (Level) Warren g92** and her brother **Matt Level g94** did with me. **John Steiner g63** was our principal. Years later, **Dixie (White) Garner g70** was the principal there.

Little did I know then how our paths would intersect later, as both Amy and “Mr. Steiner” would serve on our Fort Wayne Alumni Council. To this day, I still am fearful I will be called to “the principal’s office” and get a swat for misbehaving. Thankfully, that has never happened. In fact, Mr. Steiner was very kind to me, especially the morning I had some boys steal my lunch and punch me on the way to school. I actually got to ride in his car – quite the treat for a young student.

While Mr. Steiner has retired, Amy, who taught for several years at South Wayne continues to teach fifth grade at Price Elementary and is part of our Foellinger funded Summer Clubhouse program for inner city kids.

This issue of the *FW Vine* will celebrate the Elementary Education program that was started in 1955 and continued training and preparing students for the classroom here and abroad.

Aside from Pastoral Ministries and eventually Professional Writing, it became one of our most popular majors preparing thousands of students.

I give thanks for the lives that have been touched and transformed by professors like **Lloyd Roth, Dr. Ted Nickel h96, Dr. Alice Joy Weddle g64, Dr. Bill Jarvis, Dr. Quinn White g87, Rebecca Shearer, Amy Settle** and **Anita Lane** to name a few.

Hope you enjoy celebrating with us this great major and several of the people who are continuing to ministry in schools today. We give thanks for you and our legacy!

Grateful,



**Michael D. Mortensen g91**

*Director of FW Alumni & Friend Relations*  
mcmortensen@taylor.edu

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Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Taylor University\*.

The Fort Wayne campus was founded in 1904 as the Fort Wayne Bible Training School. It was renamed Fort Wayne Bible Institute, Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College and later became Taylor University Fort Wayne. Founded in 1846, Taylor University is one of America’s oldest Christian liberal arts colleges. Over 2,000 graduate and undergraduate students from 46 states and 24 foreign countries attend Taylor, where majors in 50 fields of study are available.

## History of Education Department



### The Ripple Effect

Funds from Phonathon continue to help Fort Wayne campus alumni and employee children and grandchildren pursue Christ-centered education at Taylor.



### Faith in Rehabilitation

Former professor injured in accident improves and now helps others with traumatic brain injuries.



### Life Lessons

Dr Wes Gerig's g51 newest book provides practical life application from the Old Testament.



# History of Education Department

by Dr. Jay Platte g69 and Michael D. Mortensen g91



As the 1950s began, a desire to supply educators for mission schools and the growing popularity of the Christian school movement prompted the Fort Wayne Bible College (FWBC) faculty and leadership to explore the possibility of offering a teacher education curriculum that would be accredited by the State of Indiana.

This desire was fueled by potential students who wanted to become teachers but with the biblical education offered by the college.

By the 1954-55 school year, plans became reality with the development of majors in elementary education, secondary education in music and speech, and K-12 music.

This program in its 59 years of existence would impact thousands of students not only on the campus but in schools here and around the world.

The Department of Education was created with Dr. Herbert Byrne as Chair. Byrne, Lloyd

Roth (1956) and Gladys Schumacher (1958) were the first three faculty members in the program, which was unanimously approved for full accreditation in October 1956 by the Indiana Department of Education.

At that time, the program consisted of a full elementary program, a high school teaching program, which did not last for many years, and a music education program.

Perhaps the most recognized and longest tenured faculty members in the department were **Dr. Ted Nickel ha96** and **Dr. Alice Joy Weddle g64**.

Nickel arrived in the spring of 1962. He became the chair of the Department of Education and the Director of Student Teaching. He had experience both in the classroom and as an administrator.

"Dr. Nickel was the person who most inspired me to persevere and gave me a love for education," **Pat (Goldsmith) Rice g82** said.



Weddle joined the department in 1972. She brought experience, vision, rigor and greater preparation for fieldwork and student teacher experiences. She later was instrumental in upgrading the curriculum and receiving North Central Association accreditation pursued by FWBC in the mid 1980s.

"She [Weddle] taught me that the classroom was my mission field to share Christ's love," **Kim (Parker) Ullick g90** wrote.

In addition to Dr. Weddle, **Nelson Gould g61**, who came in 1964 to teach math and education courses, continued to lay the groundwork for connections in the community.

This vision for greater preparation for fieldwork and student teacher experiences became a hallmark of the Fort Wayne campus and continued even after the transition to Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW).

"Being placed in a classroom setting the very first semester [within the first two weeks]

of a freshmen year was a great help," **Charrell (Williams) Stevens g07** explained. "You knew right away whether or not teaching was for you."

"Fort Wayne, as a city, gave us many great opportunities as far as different classroom settings and teaching a diverse student population," Stevens concluded.

The city of Fort Wayne provided an excellent resource for both practical experiences, and it provided experienced education professionals (some of whom were FWBC graduates), who became part-time instructors from the community. Following is a partial list of some of those instructors from the 1950s through 1992:

Earl Stanley Leonard, Robert F. Shambaugh, John Bechtelheimer, Ellen Soden, Eloise Guy, John Branam, **Shirley (Mertz) Platte g69**, Jody Grandlienard, and Susan Hall.

*...continued on page 7*

*Several posted memories & gave tributes to Fort Wayne faculty on this page.*

**Editor's Note:** The primary source for this information were the college catalogs, publications and **Dr. Jay Platte g69**. While we do our best to provide information accurately, due to the time that has passed, we may have overlooked or not known some details.



# Reflections of Education Department

by Michael D. Mortensen g91

"When I applied for the Masters Degree program at IUPUI in 1975, the counselor took one look at my transcript and acknowledged, 'I will have to put you on probation for your first nine hours of classwork since you did not graduate from a state-supported school. But, I will tell you that you have a far superior education graduating from FWBC than you would have received at a state-supported school.'"

👉 Nancy Stubblefield, g73

"Dr. Ted Nickel ha96 was the person who most inspired me to persevere and gave me a love for education. He reminded us that the students were our mission. When the pressures were great during my 27 years of teaching, I often reminded myself that 'they don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.' I am proud of the education we received and the teachers that came from the Fort Wayne campus!"

👉 Pat (Goldsmith) Rice g82

"One day in class, Dr. Alice Joy Weddle g64 told us she had an extra assignment. She asked us to memorize Psalm 91. I remember feeling dismayed at this extra amount of work and not even something related to the class we were in. Was I ever wrong! To this day when I am feeling in need of the Lord's strength and comfort, these words of this Psalm come to me bringing a sense of peace and strength. It has and will continue to be the 'lesson' I cherish most over all the countless classes I took during college."

👉 Janna (Schlatter) Worthman g86



"Dr. Quinn White g87 and Dr. Bill Jarvis were amazing mentors for me. I learned from them not only practice, but attitude. And the way the program was set up put us in classrooms pretty much every semester, and that gave me a lot more experience before graduation than many other college programs."

👉 Myric McBain g05

"I loved the enthusiasm the TUFW profs had for their field. They just loved to teach. Professor Amy Settle taught my Literacy Instruction class. I had never realized all the little rules and tricks that we do every day to read and write until she walked us through them. Now I find myself looking back at the materials from her class often to make sure I'm doing what I need to be doing."

👉 Jessica (Roach) Wason g08

**Editor's Note:** Would you like a former professor's address to write a note of thanks? We will be happy to CONNECT you. Just ask!

# The Ripple Effect

by Brent Rudin g94

**D**ating back to the early 1900s, Fort Wayne campus alumni have had a deep loyalty to encourage and financially support students as they pursue Christ-centered, Biblically-anchored education. Alumni Directors have always challenged students and graduates to pledge and give back financial support. **Howard Dunlap g48** organized these efforts into an annual phonathon in 1982 with an initial goal of \$18,000. Since then, this fund has provided hundreds of students with financial assistance. Little did he know what a ripple effect and impact this would provide for future generations.

The Fort Wayne Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund was established with funds raised by Fort Wayne campus alumni and continues at Taylor University today. Priority is given to dependents or children of Fort Wayne Bible College, Summit Christian College, Taylor University Fort Wayne alumni. Now, this scholarship is also available to students who are grandchildren or blood relatives of Fort Wayne alumni, as well as those who have blood relation to former full-time faculty or staff members who served a minimum of two years on the Fort Wayne campus.

**Peggy Sue Wells fs05** attended the Fort Wayne campus, and one of her daughters, **Leailani Wells Squires g06**, graduated from TUFW. Now, another daughter, **Estee Wells cs14**, is benefiting from this scholarship fund. “Without scholarships like this one, I wouldn’t be here at Taylor,” explained Estee. She has served the campus community in a variety of leadership positions and has studied overseas in Ireland. “My relationships and skills have grown so much these last years.”

**Bekah Steiner cs14** is another current student who is receiving the scholarship. Bekah’s mother, **Rhonda Lehman Steiner g83**, graduated from Fort Wayne Bible College, and her father, **Craig Steiner g80**, graduated from Upland. “It has been a huge blessing to be able to attend Taylor, and it would not be possible without this scholarship,” Bekah continued, “The memories from TUFW are still present, which I have heard from my mother and sister (**Rachel Steiner g11**).”

Both Estee and Bekah are grateful for the contributions of alumni who invest in this scholarship fund.

“My experience here has definitely changed me for the better and encouraged me to grow socially, academically, and spiritually,” explained Bekah. “I hope to use my education to serve as a future teacher wherever God leads.”

This year, the Fort Wayne Alumni Endowed Scholarship has supported eight students with \$5,000 a piece. Estee received this scholarship after her mother attended an alumni gathering. Until then, she was not aware of the funds available.

**Editor’s Note:** Find out more information about eligibility or giving to the Fort Wayne Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund by contacting Michael Mortensen in the Resource Center by emailing [mcmortensen@taylor.edu](mailto:mcmortensen@taylor.edu) or calling him at 260.744.8790.



# Faith in Rehabilitation

by Kara Hackett cs13

Former education professor Dr. William “Bill” Jarvis walks with a cane. In the middle of his Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) teaching career, Jarvis was in a car accident that left him with a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Since then, his physical recovery has been slow. But his cognitive recovery has made remarkable strides thanks to his natural ability to motivate others paired with the support of his TUFW family.

“I even had students come and see me and support me at the hospital,” Jarvis said. The support you feel from the community makes all the difference in the world.”

Jarvis came to TUFW in 1996 after working as a teacher and then a principal in New Jersey for 29 years.

Then in December 2000, Jarvis was driving on a snowy night in Fort Wayne when his car slid on ice into oncoming traffic. He was only driving 30 mph, but the impact of the crash broke all of his ribs, punctured his lung, fractured his C1-C4 vertebrae and left him in a coma for five weeks.

“It just goes to show you can never know what is going to happen,” Jarvis said.

When Jarvis came out of his coma, he spent a few months in three different Fort Wayne hospitals before going to Hartwick Hospital in New Jersey for rehabilitation.

After about one year, he came back to TUFW to teach one course for three more years before retiring in 2007.

“The fact that Taylor let me teach those three years . . . it really helped me to have the emotional support of faculty and students,” Jarvis said.

While he worked as a professor, Jarvis joined a Fort Wayne TBI Support group at a hospital for people recovering from brain injuries. Then when he retired in 2007, he was asked to co-



lead the group, so he drew on motivation and inspiration strategies he learned as a TUFW professor and as grade school teacher and principal.

Over time, Jarvis’s TBI Support group doubled from about 20 people to about 40 people, and for the past seven to eight years, Jarvis has been visiting hospitals and churches promoting what he calls the Jarvis Rehabilitation Method. It’s a post-hospitalization plan designed to help survivors deal with TBI and regain their cognitive skills after a brain injury.

“It gives you a plan to improve when you go home,” Jarvis said.

In his method, Jarvis emphasizes the importance of positive attitudes and trusting God.

One Bible verse that continually inspires him is Hebrews 13:5-6 which says: “*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*’ So we say with confidence, ‘*The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*’” Jarvis says this verse tells him God will never leave him no matter what problems he faces.

“My faith has really given me the incentive and motivation to improve and also to be assured I’m going to keep improving,” Jarvis said. “I always said I know God is going to take care of me because he always has—even with my problems.”

Along with creating the Jarvis Rehabilitation Method, Jarvis has written three books relating to his brain injury: *Snail to the Finish-Leaning on Faith: How to Get Through Adversity with Maximum Success*; *Improving Life-Harvesting the Fruit of the Spirit*; and *Finding Peace*. Jarvis illustrated each book with original oil paintings.

In 2010, the Brain Injury Association of Indiana awarded Jarvis the Perseverance Award for his “courage, hard work, optimistic outlook and dedication to recovery.”

Now his method is on the Lash and Associates Publishing website for brain injury information, and he speaks at hospitals and churches around the country.

“I always say no matter what happens and how severe it is, keep going forward and have faith that God will take care of you,” Jarvis said.

### History...continued from page 3



After the transition in 1992 from Summit Christian College to TUFW, the Music Education program was moved to Taylor University, Upland, Ind.

Many other professors contributed to the ongoing instruction and curriculum during the TUFW era. Following is a partial list of teaching faculty who impacted the lives of students from 1992 to 2009: Dr. Etta Miller, Dr. Marilyn Stepnowski, Lois Webster, Rebecca Moore, Dr. William Jarvis, **Quinn White g87**, Rebecca Shearer, Jennifer Manth, Mary Lowry, Anita Lane, and Amy Settle.

TUFW also began strategic relationships with Indian Village Elementary School and Harrison Hill, where TUFW students would be taken in a van for their Methods classes, which were taught in the area schools.

Education has continued to change and evolve through the years with even greater expectations and accountability. The Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center celebrates those who have embraced the changes while still loving the children despite the mountain of paperwork. The classroom continues to be a mission field no matter if public, private, Christian or home school. **Fort Wayne loves our teachers!**

**Editor's Note:** Read a bonus article about Dr. Bill Jarvis by visiting <http://fw.taylor.edu>, and clicking on his image, which will be in the rotation of pictures on our website.

# FW Celebrates! 2012

## Alumni return to campus

By Michael D. Mortensen g91



**F**ort Wayne Celebrates! held September 28 & 29, 2012, in the Eicher Student Commons, the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center, Ramseyer Hall, and Hall's Restaurant welcomed alumni and friends for a special weekend.

Dr. Jay Kesler, president Emeritus of Taylor University, brought the chapel message, which was followed by plenty of time for singing, socializing and reminiscing – especially for the Class of 1962, celebrating its 50th Reunion.

On Saturday, Professional Writing majors with **Dr. Dennis Hensley ha08** and Social Work majors and **Michele (Mallett) Wells ha09** met together for reunions.

Plans are underway for reunions for the classes of **1963** and **1973** on September 14 and 15, 2013. Plans are also forming for the class of **2003** to have its 10th reunion this summer most likely the last weekend of June or the first weekend in July. The class of **1988** may also have a 25th reunion during this year, so stay tuned to the *FW Falcon*.

# Life Lessons from OT published by Resource Center

By Andrea Osmun g05



**A**lthough **Dr. Wes Gerig g51** has retired with 51 years of service on the Fort Wayne campus, he's not ready to hang up his teaching hat just yet. These days, his teaching comes in the form of literature.

His newest book is *Lessons From Life For Life: From the Old Testament*, a collection of lessons that are based on more than 168 Old Testament passages and 180 topics.

"I've heard so many sermons that were impractical -- there was nothing to help me with my life today," he said of why he decided to write the book. "[I wanted] to help pastors, Sunday school teachers, parents, and group leaders take and apply the Scripture, not just tell it."

He also referenced 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, which talks about the Old Testament stories, as his inspiration: "Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did...These things happened to them as examples and were

written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come."

His book includes between 5 and 15 "Lessons for Life" that coincide with each Bible passage. The lessons also are organized in a topical index, making it easy for Christians to find the practical application.

*Lessons* is Dr. Wes' fourth book to be published through the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center. He and his son **Jeff Gerig g84** have compiled and self-published a few of Dr. Wes' other books as well.

"Publishing Dr. Wes' books provides our alumni another way to connect with God, which fits in our mission to *care, connect, and celebrate*," **Michael D. Mortensen g91**, director of FW Alumni & Friend Relations, said.

Dr. Wes is now working on publishing a book of 79 of his sermons from Genesis and a second volume to *Lessons From Life For Life*, which will be focused on the New Testament.



# news notes

Submit News Notes items to [alumnifw@taylor.edu](mailto:alumnifw@taylor.edu), call the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center at (260) 744-8790, or mail to FW Vine, 915 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

Do you receive our monthly e-newsletter, the *FW Falcon*? Contact the Resource Center to add your email address to our list.



Use your smartphone to submit the latest News Note.

**Violet (Egly) Ringenberg g45** has recently been put on hospice after experiencing tremendous lower back pain and the discovery of a cancerous mass. Violet, with the help of her husband, **Gerald g45**, continues to coordinate our Fort Wayne Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team sending out almost daily prayer requests the FW Alumni Resource Center receives to our team of 22 individuals from Hawaii to Indiana.

**Richard g53** and **Ida (Snoke) fs55 Leever** are currently living in Desert Hot Springs, CA, where Richard is currently the Chaplain Emeritus at Sky Valley Ministries. Last year he preached for an International Church in Doha, Qatar, where his son Steven is principal of the American School of Doha.

**John Butler g56** retired from university teaching in 1999. He has spent the last 12 years in lay pastorates and has served four churches. He does occasional pulpit supply and has served on the food bank truck which delivers food to 16 counties in northeastern Iowa. **Jean (Wrightson) Butler g57** retired from nursing in 1991. She leads and serves on several church communities as well as sewing for mission's projects. They have gone on mission trips to Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico and Guatemala.

Sam and **Ruth Ann (Pipkin) Wegner g64** served in Italy with Biblical Ministries Worldwide from 1978 until June 2007. Ruth continues to help with language and cultural adaptation of assessments used with candidates. She also assesses scholastic levels of the children of candidates.

**Judith (Dunlap) Barr g65** retired on June 30, 2012 from ordained ministry in the Presbyterian church (USA). She founded and served 20 years as the Director of The Samaritan: A Healthcare Clinic for the Homeless in Dayton, OH. She previously served for 10 years as the Christian Education Director at Dayton Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**Earl g68** and **Cheryl (Roth) Cecil g68** recently moved to Indianapolis to live nearer to their youngest son's new daughter as well as their daughter and her family. Earl and Cheryl celebrated 45 years of marriage on July 8.

**Larry g71** and **Annette (Goldsmith) Salsburey g72** have moved to California to be closer to family. Larry is serving as full-time chaplain with Vistas Innovative Hospice Care. Larry and Annette are both involved at Church on the Way in Santa Clarita.

**Jim Brian g76** founded a Christian group home in Dayton, OH, in August 1976. That ministry grew over the next 33 years into Operation Rebirth Christian Boarding School and Family Ministries. Jim now serves as director emeritus, and he speaks on behalf of Operation Rebirth on subjects related to family. He and his wife, Susan, live on a farm 30 miles north of Dayton.

**Kelly g76** and Lisa **McMichael** were married in Clearwater, FL in July 2009. Kelly's first wife, **Gaye (Anderson) g78** died of breast cancer in 2003.

**Paulette (Smith) Foley g77** has moved with her son, Zach, from Washington state to Charleston, SC. Paulette is teaching high school social studies at the Berkeley Alternative School. This is her "toughest mission field" yet, but God is GREAT!

**Col. Tim Leever g77** is Chaplain at Fort Bragg, NC and recently received his Doctorate in Ministry. He is married to **Darlene (King) g78**.

**Michael Lehman g80** accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Covenant United Methodist Church in LaGrange, KY.

**Karen Whitman g80** received a doctorate of nursing practice from the University of Saint Francis in Joliet, IL.

**Shirley Souder g83** continues to be a Christian counselor in private practice in the Auburn area. She is active in the County Line Church, leads two women's Bible studies, and is marketing coordinator for First Stop (a community action ministry through County Line Church). Shirley has just had a handbook

published called *Embracing Emotional Forgiveness*. "Fixing your future so it doesn't reflect your past is the most important thing we do, by granting emotional forgiveness." Her book *I Hate It When My Soul Is Crying* is due out soon. She and her husband John enjoy country living just outside Auburn.

**Craig g83** and **Peggy (Bearss) fs83 Vincent** are serving with Streamside Camp and Conference Center in Stroudsburg, PA. Craig is the Executive Director of this ministry that seeks to saturate children, teens, and adults in the "streams" of God's Word. Last summer they worked with 467 family, resident and day campers.

## Dunlaps Celebrate 70th Anniversary



Former Fort Wayne Alumni and Church Relations Director **Howard g48** and **Ruth (Alspaugh) Dunlap** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary October 18, 2012, after being married in Delphos, Ohio in 1942.

The Dunlaps met while they were teenagers in rival high schools in Van Wert County, Ohio. Ruth had watched Howard play basketball against her brother's team, and then officially met at a roller skating rink.

With their work in churches and at Fort Wayne Bible College, the Dunlaps have served 68 years in ministry.

## Former Campus Receives Facelift and Tenants



"The Summit," the former Fort Wayne campus, owned by Ambassador Enterprises, continues to receive a facelift and tenants.

The former English Library hosts Grace College Fort Wayne and Crossroads Bible College. Perhaps the most noticeable change is in Witmer Hall, where Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Pathfinder Services will soon relocate.

A new sidewalk and entrance with an awning has been erected on the south side of Witmer. Once inside, many of the classrooms have been eliminated to make way for office space. Visit our FW Alumni & Friends Resource Center page on Facebook for pictures in late-January.

### Dr. Susan J. Boklaga g87



married Juan Pablo Pereira on October 27, 2012 at the Church of Bethesda by the Sea, Palm Beach, FL in a bilingual ceremony. Susan is self-employed as a psychologist and consultant and recently began a second PhD at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. They share their time between homes in Palm Beach Gardens, FL and Niquinomoho, Nicaragua where they are building a home.

**Mark Burritt g87** accepted a position as Controller at Grace College on June 21, 2012. He was formerly the Executive Director of Accounting Services at Indiana Wesleyan University.

**Tom g88** and Joan Turner spent time this December volunteering at Voice of the Martyrs facility in Bartlesville, OK and then spent time at the New Tribes Mission facility in Arizona. Tom can be reached at [turner-48@comcast.net](mailto:turner-48@comcast.net).

**Graham g88** and **Lori (Fazio) West fs86** have just completed 20 years with Missionary Athletes International. Most recently, they were serving in Thailand

developing sports ministry programs. Now they are back living in Matthews, NC where Graham continues to help in international ministries of MAI.

**Tammy Lugar g93** recently moved to Shipshewana where she is serving as the Senior Pastor at Scott Shipshewana United Methodist Church just a mile from the Indiana and Michigan border.

After finishing their missions work in Ukraine, Todd and **Tammy Wilson g93** are now pastoring Kewanna UMC in Kewanna, IN. Their son Josiah recently finished Army Basic Training.

**Kevin g98** and **Cathy (Hoover) DeVries fs99** accepted the role of Lead Pastor at the Monee Free Methodist Church in Monee, IL, after 9 years serving as Youth/Worship Pastor in Portage, MI. They are excited for this new journey, with their children, Katie (9), Josh (6), and Caroline (4). Please pray for them!

**Troy TUg99** and **Ashley (Benedict) Tiberi g05**, with Calais (2), welcomed Salem Benedict on November 23, 2012. Salem was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and has a head of dark hair.

**Rick g00** and **Niki Henderson,**



with Clarissa (15), Alisa (8), Jayda (5), and Ayin (2), welcomed Tymon Rhiles on June 20, 2012. Tymon was 8 lbs. and 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. Rick is currently seeking employment as a real estate appraiser in Sunbury, OH, where he lives with his family.

**Jason g00** and **Cori (Green) Roton g00** have moved to Peru, IN. Jason is now serving as the youth pastor at Peru First Baptist Church and Cori is teaching 6th grade at MSD of Wabash County. Email Cori at [croton1977@gmail.com](mailto:croton1977@gmail.com).

**Jeremy Steup g00** has taken a position as Assistant to the Director of Finance for the district office of the Missionary Church. Jeremy also serves as the Deacon of Finance at Life Community Church (formerly Aboite Missionary Church) in Fort Wayne.

**Sharon (Ridenour) g01**



married Travis **Garrison** June 23, 2012 at Evangelical Covenant Church in Lafayette, IN. Others from TUFW who were in the wedding were **Traci Slager g01**, **Sarah (Conley) Asher g01**, **Debbie Ridenour g04**. Others in attendance or helping were **Chrissy (Payne) King g00** (her son was the ring bearer), **Megan Hasbrouk g02**, **Lauren (Dylhoff) Brady g00**, **Bill g01** and **Joanna (Nuss) g01 Jones** (their daughter was the flower girl), **Rob Slager g01**, and **Jenny Hebert g02**.

**Trevor g02** and **Abby (Cridler) Yardley g01**, with Elijah (6) and Raelynn (3), welcomed Noah David on August 13, 2012. Noah was 9 lbs. 14 oz. and 21 inches long.

**Aaron g03** and **Bobbie (Girod) Howley g02**



have arrived safely in Kampala, Uganda, where they are beginning to serve with AIM as guest house managers. They are settling in at the inn as guests, but they will eventually manage it while beginning some language training. Please be in prayer for their language training, health, and their boys.

**Stephanie Struck g03** is the executive assistant for the Max De Pree Center for Leadership.

**Candace Linn g04** recently joined the Office of Refugee Resettlement under HHS in the federal government in Washington, D.C. She works with various states and programs to provide grants from the federal government to the states for resettlement services to refugees upon their arrival to the United States.

**Matt g04** and Laura Gross



welcomed Simeon Matthew on July 22, 2012. Simeon was 8 lbs. 15 oz. and 21 inches long.

**Andrea (Perry) g04** and David Steht welcomed Adam John into the world on December 12, 2012 at 12:12 a.m. and 12 seconds. Thankfully, he was not 12 lbs. Adam John weighed 7 lbs. and 2 oz. The Stehts also have Levi, 2.

**LT Brice Bennett g05** was appointed as a chaplain in the US Army. He is serving in Afghanistan with the 38th Military Police Battalion out of Fort Wayne. Please pray for the unit and the families back home for a safe deployment.



## Sharon Campbell Keeps You Current

If you've married, changed jobs, relocated, or changed a phone number or email address in the past few years, it's very likely that Sharon Campbell has updated your records. Sharon is in her 20th year of service in Upland and works behind the scenes to keep alumni records up-to-date and accurate.

In addition to maintaining records, Sharon assists with registration and logistic support for alumni events.

"One of the highlights that I've had in working with the Fort Wayne alumni was to assist in moving the Resource Center to the Lilian Rolf House and getting that facility ready for service," explains Sharon. "I enjoyed seeing the history and heritage of the campus through the memorabilia that is found there."

Sharon and her husband, Ron, live in Marion, Ind. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

**Drew g05** and Megan **Davis**, with Evelyn (4) and Stellen (2), welcomed Malakai Blaine on August 31, 2012. Malakai was 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 19 inches long.

**Tabatha Lamb g05** recently accepted a position at Simpson College as their Upward Bound Academic Advisor. She will be working with high schoolers in six schools in the Des Moines area (central Iowa). In order to qualify for this specialized program, the students have to be potential first generation college students and/or low income. She started this position in November 2012.

**Dan g05** and Amanda **Wilton** just celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary and have a 17 month old daughter named Michaela. Their family mission is to abide in Christ more and more every day and rejoice in His faithfulness. Dan is serving as the interim youth minister at Bethany Baptist Church and attending Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. He is also a Chaplain Candidate in the Air Force and hopes to be involved in ministry to our military in the coming years as the Lord sees fit.

**Josh Fenner g06** recently moved to Pottersville, MI, where he is serving as the National Guard Education Specialist for the state of Michigan.

**Brian fs06** and **Jennifer (Ritter) Omeroso g07**,



with Lily (9) and Wesley (7), welcomed Eleanor Catherine on July 19, 2012. Nora was 5 lbs. 13 oz. and 19 inches long.

Andy and **Katy (Jessup) Hobbs g07**



welcomed Aria Noel on December 24, 2011. Aria weighed 10 lbs. 4 oz. and was 23 inches long.

**Rick g07** and **Jamie (Knuth) Schwartz g07** welcomed Caleb Richard on August 16, 2012. Caleb was 7 lbs. 2 oz. Rick and Jamie live in Lima, OH, where Rick planted

CrossPoint Community Church and Jamie is a second grade teacher at a charter school.

**Michael g07 and Jenn (Logue) Sprunger g06** are missionary appointees with FEC International Ministries. They presently live in Berne, IN, where Michael is a youth pastor. They are in the process of raising support to minister to the Yalunka people of Mali, West Africa. They can be reached at [michaelsprunger10@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsprunger10@gmail.com).

**Jared g08 and Elizabeth (VandenAvond) Pomeroy g07** have adopted Elea Jane, who was born on August 14, 2012. Elea was 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 19 inches long. Elizabeth was present at the birth and was able to cut the umbilical cord.

**Adam g08 and Stephanie Zimmerman** were married on May 19, 2012 in Romeo, MI. TUFW participants were **Ben Carowan g08**, **Kyle Waalen g06**, and **John Engler g99**. Adam and Stephanie live in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Amy Raymond g09** is a resident director at Trevecca Nazarene University.

Blake and **Tashi (Bent) Widmer g09**



were married on July 24, 2011 at Deaf Bible Church in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. They had a US wedding reception at Leo Apostolic Church on August 6, 2011. TUFW Participants were **Stephanie Gates g07**, **Roger g69** and **Carol (Steiner) Ringenberg fs69**, **Jared g07** and **Kate (Schmelzer) Gutierrez g08**, **John g07** and **Marsha Boyanowski g08** and **Ardonna "AJ" Jackson h09**. Blake and Tashi serve at the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf through Apostolic Christian Relief.

**Marie (Ayelle) Mante fs11** tutors at Solid Rock Tutoring, LLC where she is also the owner.

## Memorials

**Genevieve (Dilgart) Leightner g39**, one of our oldest living alumni passed away November 1, 2012 in Pandora, OH. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton Leightner, who passed away in 2004.

**Florence (Habegger) Tucker g44** reunited with the Lord on September 13, 2012 in Ossian, IN.

**Bob Ross g45** passed away from congestive heart failure on May 21, 2012 in a hospice facility in Port Charlotte, FL. Bob and **Lavera (Amstutz) fs44**, deceased in 2007, served the Missionary Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone for a number of years. He also served the Gideons for a number of years. Bob is survived by his sons **Michael, Mark g75**, Ronald, and **Steven g70**, and their families.

**Leroy Caddy fs48** passed away on April 16, 2012 at a retirement community in Brighton, MI. Leroy was a wonderful musician and a member of the well-known FWBC King's Men quartet of 1947. He served the Lord faithfully in music, and even in his last year was playing the piano to bless and encourage the residents of the retirement center.

**Editor's note:** More current News & Notes are added weekly on our new website: [fw.taylor.edu](http://fw.taylor.edu). Alumni and friends can send for our review and posting, and then they can be read by former classmates and friends. Check out this new feature today!

**Orton Gilpin fs51** went to be with the Lord peacefully at home on June 14, 2012. Orton retired from General Electric after 37 years. He served in the US Army Band, and he was involved in various Christian ministries. He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, **Joan (Williams) g51**, sons **Steven fs72**, **Gary g77**, and **Mark fs78**, ten grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

**Rev. Ralph Ogden g51** departed for his heavenly home on July 21, 2012. Ralph was a minister for 56 years in Arizona, Ohio and Illinois. He was also an avid gardener. Ralph is survived by his wife **Miriam (Wiederkehr) g50**, his daughter **Roxanne g76 (Steve Gerig g76)**, his sons Sid (Beth) Ogden and Stuart (Lisa) Ogden, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

**Rev. William Mueller g54** passed away on Nov. 18, 2011. His wife Clarice (Jones) g53 survives.

**Rev. George Nantz g55** went home to be with Jesus on May 18, 2012. George was

ordained in 1963 and served the Missionary Church. He was serving as associate pastor at Brenneman Memorial Missionary Church at the time of his passing. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Ila (Crow) g45** in 2004. He is survived by his daughters Suzanne Flemming, **Cynthia Isnogle g84**, and **Lisa Crawford fs84** and their families.

**Linda (Mason) Hood fs67** passed away suddenly on September 13, 2012. Linda was one of the inaugural members of the Singing Collegians 1965-66. She is survived by her husband **Daniel fs67** and their son.

**Karon (Whitcher) Briggs fs79** went to heaven on September 6, 2012 after a collision with a drunk driver. Karon is survived by her children Leah and Jordan and her twin sister **Karol g79 (Bradley g80) Gibson**.

**Raymond Heidinger g82** passed away November 8,

2012 having recently retired. His time and energy were spent serving the three things he loved most: God, his family, and his country. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, his children, and grandchildren. For his love for God, Raymond volunteered on our Fort Wayne Alumni Volunteer Prayer Team.

**Greg Luginbill g83** passed away December 13, 2012 after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Abigail, and their daughters, Emily and Leah; his grandson, Kayson Luginbill; and his sister Ronette (Bill) Armstrong.

**Mark David Brinkman g86** passed away on November 6, 2012. Mark served as a missionary in Macedonia with the Christian & Missionary Alliance. Mark is survived by his wife **Pattie (Teall) Brinkman g88**, who now works for the Taylor University Campus Store, and his children Erin, Hallie, and Luke.



A publication of the Fort Wayne  
Alumni & Friends Resource Center

## FW Falcon connects and celebrates

Interested in the latest FW campus alumni news or pictures? The FW Falcon, our monthly e-newsletter, flies generally once a month to nearly 3,000 email addresses of Fort Wayne campus alumni and friends.

Are you receiving it?

It's a short read with plenty of pictures and links to what takes place at the Resource Center and in the lives of our alumni. It provides the latest news and features and includes a special column entitled, "Along Rudisill..."

Give us your email address, and we will make sure you don't miss another "flight."

# Share **YOUR** Voice

The Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center is putting together a three to five year plan, and we are looking for your feedback on our mission and ministry now and for the future.

This is a two-part process:

1. We are reflecting on our first three years. What has been accomplished? Who has engaged in our mission to care, connect and celebrate? How much interest is there in having the Fort Wayne Alumni & Friends Resource Center and how has it been supported with time, talent and treasure?
2. We are developing a three to five year strategic plan, as we believe there are alumni with whom we have not connected or who do not fully understand our purpose.

Here is where we need your help. If you live in Fort Wayne, would you be willing to come to the Resource Center for a focused time to give your feedback with others? If you live outside of Fort Wayne, it is our hope to have similar times for you to assemble together to give feedback. We will try to come to you in person or through modern technology. **We will NOT ask for funds at these sessions.**

**Are you “in” to help us?** Please email [alumnifw@taylor.edu](mailto:alumnifw@taylor.edu) if you would be willing to “Share **YOUR** Voice” or host a time together.



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